United Nations DP CCF RWA I EXTENSION I

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
19 December 2000

Original: English

First regular session 2001
29 January-6 February 2001, New York
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Country cooperation framework and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Rwanda

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension:
1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001

I. Background and justification

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Rwanda, covering the period 1998-2000, was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1998 and was based on a series of discussions and consultations with the Government, civil society and the donor community. It took into account the priorities of the Government as expressed the public investment programme and the programme for national reconciliation, rehabilitation and relaunching the national economy. The CCF was formulated in a national context that was clouded by the consequences of the 1994 genocide.

2. Rwanda faces a number of structural challenges and challenges resulting from the genocide: more than 60 per cent of Rwandese live below the poverty line; it is a landlocked country; and there is a high density of population with high population growth rates. Rwanda is also facing difficulties arising from the subregional political context.

3. In 2000, the Government completed a major step in the fight against poverty through the formulation of the national poverty reduction strategy, which became the basis for an interim Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper submitted to a donor consultation in early November 2000. The United Nations system conducted a common country assessment (CCA) exercise *in 2000*. The final document of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is expected in the second quarter of 2001. The United Nations organizations represented in Rwanda will harmonize programming cycles beginning January 2002. The Government has

PROPERT
PRINCETON U
LIBRA

00-81304 (E) 100101

requested a one-year extension to facilitate this harmonization with its own priorities and to help to relaunch the engagement of partners to assist Rwanda.

II. Objectives and outputs of the current country cooperation framework

4. UNDP Rwanda organized its cooperation within the following focus areas of the first CCF: (a) capacity-building for good governance and (b) reintegration and rehabilitation for sustainable human development and poverty alleviation. The focus areas remain extremely valid on the development context of the country, as indicated in the following paragraphs.

A. Capacity-building for good governance

5. UNDP cooperation strengthens national capacities for planning and managing socio-economic development and human resources development, strengthens the capacity of the security and judicial systems, supports decentralization and assists in demobilization and integration. So far, the main results of UNDP cooperation are: reform of the organizational structure of parliament and reinforcement of its capacities. UNDP has contributed to civil service reform and the launching of the decentralization process. In the area of justice and human rights, UNDP cooperation has improved accessibility to the judicial system. UNDP has worked closely with the Government in the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights and the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. UNDP contributed to the social and economic reinsertion of about 15,000 army veterans.

6. During 2001, UNDP support to civil service reform — notably to parliament for its role in the defence of human rights — and to the decentralization process will continue. The intervention of UNDP in the justice area will support local elections and enhance the capacities of communal development committees to address the enormous problem of the remaining 112,000 post-genocide prisoners.

B. Reintegration and rehabilitation for sustainable human development and poverty alleviation

7. UNDP has supported the Government in the formulation of a poverty alleviation strategy and has organized thematic consultations (resettlement, education and food security) and jointly with other United Nations organizations has supported a smooth transition from emergency interventions to a developmental approach, through the reintegration programme. In the area of gender, UNDP cooperation has contributed to the formulation of a new national policy.

8. UNDP assistance in this area during 2001 will shift to support for the application of decentralization, development and poverty alleviation strategies at the grass-roots level. Reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS, the implementation of the national gender policy, and the issue of environmental degradation will continue to receive particular attention.

III. Recommendation

9. The Administrator is pleased to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first UNDP country cooperation framework for Rwanda for a period of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2001.